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program is off to a  
great start  
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Local residents accepted  
to the presidential  
scholars program  
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"Spotlight"  
opened locally last  
weekend  
Review on page 12

# NECC Observer

Northern Essex  
Community College

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College • Haverhill and Lawrence, Mass.

observer.necc.mass.edu @theneccobserver facebook.com/neccobserver

Fall 2015 • Volume 79 • Issue Number 7 • Dec. 2, 2015

## News Bytes

### TOILETRIES BEING COLLECTED FOR THE EMMAUS HOUSE HOMELESS SHELTER

Please bring toiletries: diapers, dental hygiene and other hygiene products such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant and razors from Dec. 1 to Dec. 15 in Haverhill C-building Lobby and One Stop Student Center as well as Lawrence Dimitry and El-Hefni Lobbies.

### PLANS TO RENOVATE THE SPURK BUILDING MOVING AHEAD

A plan is being put in place to temporarily relocate classrooms and offices starting in the summer of 2016, with the renovations continuing through the 2016 - 2017 school year. Improvements include new windows and shades, and new HVAC which will provide central A/C as well as heat. The renovations will also focus on making the Spurk building fully ADA accessible. A website has been created for information about the renovations. Go to [facstaff.necc.mass.edu/vision-and-planning-initiatives/spurk-renovation-project/spurk-renovation-construction-updates/](http://facstaff.necc.mass.edu/vision-and-planning-initiatives/spurk-renovation-project/spurk-renovation-construction-updates/)

### 'ALTERNATE STATES OF BEING' BY ARTIST BRIAN ALVES

The Linda Hummel-Shea ArtSpace is currently hosting the work of artist Brian Alves. A reception was held on Dec. 1 where students and faculty had the opportunity to meet the artist and hear about his art. His work will be on display in the ArtSpace from now through Dec. 19. The ArtSpace is located at the back of the Bentley Library on the Haverhill campus. Admission is free.

## Coach suspended



Darren Stratton

NECC basketball  
coach suspended,  
accused of role in  
illegal betting ring

By KYLE BENSON  
Sports Editor

NECC Knights basketball coach Darren Stratton has been placed on administrative leave due to charges of illegal gambling pressed against him.

Stratton, 41, is facing charges of registering bets, using a telephone to register bets and conspiracy to register bets. He is among 33 defendants indicted in an alleged multimillion dollar sports betting scheme. According to Attorney General Maura Healey, the 33 defendants ran an extensive sports gambling enterprise that used an offshore, Costa Rica-based sports betting website, PerHead.com, to track bets.

Continued on page 10

## Student doesn't let obstacles stand in her way

Psychology major  
has overcome many  
challenges

By SARAH TISO  
Features Editor

24-year-old Shianne McGilvray wears bright-colored plaid cardigans and bows in her hair as she attends NECC.

Her partner in crime is Ruby, her cat, whom she is planning on getting pictures with for the

holidays while sporting a kitty Christmas sweater. She is in her last semester for an associate degree in Liberal Arts: Psychology Option. She's even received an academic award for High Honors in her major.

"I am a member of PACE, Psi Beta and Phi Theta Kappa, and I am currently trying to be accepted into Psi Chi (four year college psychology honor society). I am a single, one-cat woman. I often try to paint, color or sketch. However, I need to make sure my cat, Ruby, is also getting affection —

otherwise she'll try to be an artist with me," says McGilvray.

Isabelle Gagne is a psychology professor in the Behavioral Science department. McGilvray was in her Developmental Psychology 1: Childhood and Adolescence course last Spring. "(Shianne) joined Psi Beta Psychology Community College honors society, volunteered as a note taker in the course, and participated in college professional day as a panelist on the power of a positive mind set."

Continued on page 8

### Academy 'Meet and Greet'

In response to questions and concerns raised by students on the Haverhill campus, the NECC Methuen Police Academy and the Essex County Sheriff's Department Academy will hold an "Academy Meet and Greet." The event begins at 11:30 today in the Hartleb Technology center with pizza and refreshments. This will be followed at noon by speakers from both academies who will share information about the academies, including the recruitment and training process and job placement upon graduation. This will be followed by a question and answer session. All NECC students and faculty are invited and encouraged to attend. For more information, see the full ad on page 5.

### 'Originate' opens Friday night



Photo by Kelly Schwing

The NECC dance club prepares for the upcoming performance at Pawtucket Regional High School.

### What's Happening?

"Academy Meet and Greet"  
Wednesday, Dec. 2  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Meet representatives from the NECC Methuen Police Academy and the Essex County Sheriff's Department Academy. Pizza and refreshments will be served.

Seasonal Celebration and Parranda at the Lawrence campus  
Wednesday, Dec. 2  
11 a.m. - Dimitry

Research Paper Workshop: Finalizing the Research Essay  
Wednesday, Dec. 2  
12 - 1 p.m.  
In Lawrence in L241  
In Haverhill in C213  
Workshops are free and no registration is necessary  
For more information, call 978-556-3407

'First Friday' activity  
Friday, Dec. 4  
2 - 4 p.m.  
Join the First Friday group for a viewing of the movie "The Other Son," a French film about the Palestinian-Israeli divide.

"Originate" - A student dance performance  
Friday, Dec. 4  
7:30 p.m.  
Pawtucket Regional High School  
24 Main Street  
West Newbury, MA  
Admission prices:  
\$8 adults  
\$6 students & seniors  
\$4 kids under 12  
Contact Michelle Deane for more information:  
[mdeane@necc.mass.edu](mailto:mdeane@necc.mass.edu)  
978-556-3597

Seasonal Celebration and Children's party at the Haverhill campus  
Friday, Dec. 9  
4 - 6 p.m.  
Sports & Fitness Center

# Editorial

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## I want words to be my superpower

By KIM WHITING  
Editor-in-Chief

"I became a journalist to come as close as possible to the heart of the world."  
— Henry Luce

Every other week, we need to put an editorial column in this section of the newspaper. In theory, it sounds like an easy thing to do. Just pick an interesting topic, discuss it with the staff and write up a few columns expressing the newspaper's views on the subject. Simple, in theory.

Reality, of course, is a different story. Much of the staff is getting bogged down with midterm exams, completing internships and the beginning of the holiday season — not to mention the fact that we all have other jobs, which makes getting together for meetings a challenge.

You may think that surely, as a writing major and the Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper, I should be able to think of something to write about.

After all, we live in a world that suffers no shortage of commentary. I just don't always know where to start.

I have been keeping up with current events so I would know what to talk about but I feel like I'm drowning in bad news.

The anger and fear that dominates the media is compelling but we can too easily get wrapped up in a cycle of negativity that leads us to behave poorly.

Responsible journalism has to be about more than perpetuating the negativity. I really love words and I think they are way more important than people give them credit for. They need to be used with respect and care. When misused, they can be a weapon powerful enough to destroy lives. Or, they can be the inspiration that saves them. I vow that as a journalist, I will never use my words for evil purposes.

That said, I don't want to just rant about current events. I want my words to mean more than that. Anyone can rant. I just don't really know where to start.

I could tell you that I saw

Spotlight recently with some of the Observer staff. The movie was fantastic but to be fair, even this amazing movie was based on bad news of evil deeds.

I trust that Jowi will be able to do it far more justice than I ever could, so you can turn to his review on the last page to hear about that.

I could join the ranks of people who are writing about three people being killed in the shooting at the Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado. Plenty of people are voicing their opinions about that incident. Some even hail the shooter as a hero for saving the lives of babies that would have otherwise have been aborted, although, according to an article by The Associated Press, that particular clinic did not actually perform abortions.

Nobody seems really shocked that this happened. We are kind of becoming used to the random shootings, I guess. This is the shooting of the week. Add it to the list.

I could write about the article that appeared in the Boston

Globe on Sunday, Nov. 29, that uncovered such a backlog of cases at the Massachusetts Medical Examiner's office where children are abused to death often fall through the cracks, sometimes going unsolved for years for lack of a determined cause of death.

Here in Massachusetts, the Department of Children and Families is often under fire for failing to protect the children in its care. Now we know that the investigations too often go cold, allowing their killers to go free. The injustices against our state's children just keep piling up, with no end in sight.

Perhaps I should write about terrorist attacks in France or sanctions against Turkey or Syrian refugees, or the beheadings in Libya. Or, the suicide bombings in Nigeria and Cameroon. But really, by the time you read this it will all be old news and some new drama will be unfolding. The truth is, in the hour that I've been writing this column, another 6,400 people have died. (An average of 56 million people die worldwide each year, according

to the World Health Organization. That's about 153,424 people each day.)

Reading the news each day leaves me wrung out and exhausted. I feel compelled to do whatever little I can do to help make the world a better place. I just don't know where to start. I'm not angry. I don't want to point my finger at Obama or yell at Charlie Baker or disband the NRA or blame Islam or defund Planned Parenthood. I don't want to carry a gun or a picket sign or pass judgement on others. I just want us all to learn how to share this planet. The world is becoming a small place. We are going to have to learn to work together, since none of us are going away willingly. Hopefully, someday, I will be able to use my passion for journalism to help us all become better educated about the people that share the world with us so we can learn to see each other as fellow humans.

I want to make words be my superpower and I want to use them to save the world. I just don't know where to start.

## NECC Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College

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Have you taken Journalism I? Are you taking it now? Would you like to be on the Observer staff? Then submit your resume to [observer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:observer@necc.mass.edu).

### Publication Schedule

| issue # | Publication Date | Ad/Copy Deadline |
|---------|------------------|------------------|
| 7       | Dec. 2           | Nov. 25          |
| 8       | Dec. 16          | Dec. 9           |

We welcome letters and articles from our readers. You can submit via email, and must include your name and phone number for verification. Write "Letter" or "Article to Editor" in the subject line so we notice it right away.

Send your letters to [observer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:observer@necc.mass.edu)  
We try to publish all letters we receive, but we reserve the right to edit or reject those we receive.

The NECC Observer is a member of the Associated College Press, College Media Advertisers Inc., the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and the New England Press Association.

### Roaming Reporter

## What did you do over the holiday weekend?



"I made pumpkin pie but everyone ate it before I got a piece!"

SOFIA GERMAN  
Deaf Studies



"I spent time with family... had lots of fun and food."

SOTHY PEN  
Deaf Studies



"Homework and work and spent time with family."

AARON ROMERO  
Business Transfer



"Black Friday shopping at the mall."

BRENT BARRETT  
Business Transfer



"Went to work. My family is in R.I."

ROSSIBEL KURZ  
Deaf Studies



"I cleaned my house."

CHRISSY SHEEHY  
Deaf Studies

# Opinion

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## Letter: Another perspective on trainees

I have been following the debate regarding the issues surrounding the law enforcement trainees. While I can appreciate those who are against their presence on campus you have no idea of what law enforcement is all about.

I am not a police officer but have been in the law enforcement family my entire life. My father was with the Rochester, NY department for 38 years retiring with the rank of First Sergeant—the only member of the department so honored.

Following his retirement the badge was retired as well. My dad was highly respected within the department and by the community as a whole. I married into the department and now my son is a member. Both have been cited as Officer of the Month.

As a child I watched my dad report for duty during the rioting that occurred in Rochester not knowing when he would come home and in what condition.

Another time he came upon an accident scene and prevented a passer-by from removing the young driver from her vehicle. Had the driver been removed she would have been paralyzed.

Just a few weeks before giving birth I watched my husband be sent to Attica State Prison to help quell

the rioting that was occurring. Other times he was spat on for doing his job of protecting our city.

Now I dread to think of what my son must be on alert for considering the state of our world.

I sincerely appreciate Jake Soraghan's letter in the Nov. 18th edition of the NECC Observer. He gets it. Thanks, Jake.

As for those whose comments appeared in the same edition you don't get it. One former student found their training activity to be, "...aggressive and inappropriate for a college campus."

Pardon me, but those who attend college are adults and should be thinking like adults and able to understand what police training in today's world entails.

An Early Childhood Education major determined that a 3-year-old doesn't, "understand practice...that shouting messes with a kids [sic] head..." Is this person trying to say that what young children watch on TV is less violent than seeing the trainees practice?

The Director of the day care program doesn't, "...know how appropriate it is to do it [training] in front of the college kids." Does she have any idea of how much violence today's college kids have already witnessed by what they choose to watch

in the media and on the internet?

One student determined a training exercise to be, "...very dehumanizing...violent and aggressive." Is she aware that police training pales in comparison to the training of terrorists?

Another student feels, "...the level of violence being displayed can be upsetting...and training should be on de-escalating violent situations."

It's obvious he has never been involved in a riot situation. His comment that, "...they're just beating pads with nightsticks just to get... how to more efficiently beat someone down."

Does he think this is the highest priority of a police officer—to beat others? He maintains this confuses him. Has he ever considered meeting one on one with an officer to better understand what police do?

Those suffering from PTSD may have difficulty being around the trainees however, unless those so afflicted live in a sterile, neutral environment the world will go on and help is available.

As far as the drill conducted during school hours, while it may have been a surprise to students, it could be seen as a positive by making students aware of how to react in a real situation. Isn't it better to be prepared than have no idea of how to

protect yourself?

Put yourself in a difficult situation needing assistance. A family member is missing. You are home alone and a stranger breaks in.

You are being held against your will. A mass shooter goes on a rampage where you are attending a venue.

I guarantee that person in blue who shows up will become your hero. Just ask the people who have been in the above scenarios.

Do you know what it's like to walk into a pitch black building searching for an armed

suspect? Do you know what it's like to have to tell a parent their child has been killed in an accident? Do you know how it feels to see a victim of abuse?

Do you know how it feels to work on a case for months then watch a known perpetrator go free?

How would you like to have Thanksgiving and Christmas cut short because your parent had to report for duty?

It was a real treat when my dad and husband got the day off once every few years. My husband hated working Christmas Eve. Family trouble calls found kids cowering, the tree on the floor amid broken ornaments, gifts ripped apart and the wife or husband either drunk or beaten.

How would you like to grow up not knowing your parent because he or she was killed in the line of duty?

A police officer puts his or her life on the line every time they pin on their badge, holster their service revolver, and report for duty.

They serve and protect not because they have to but because they want to. They need exceptional training and it has to take place somewhere. Police officers don't just magically appear from nowhere perfectly trained.

While what you see may be upsetting to those who don't understand the inner workings of law enforcement be grateful officers can be well trained.

Step outside your comfort zone and talk to an officer. They are human, just like you.

They have feelings, hopes, dreams and fears. They are dads and moms, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters.

They are not machines; they are not perfect. And unless you can find a better way to train them, make the world a safer place or are willing to do their job be grateful someone is there when you need them.

Just ask anyone who has been a victim.

Sharon Tucker, M.Ed, BSPA, AAS, NECC Student



SPRING COURSES START  
**JANUARY 20**  
AT NECC IN HAVERHILL

## Pursue a UMass Lowell Degree at NECC in Haverhill

You can earn Your Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Criminal Justice or Business Administration in Haverhill, MA.\*

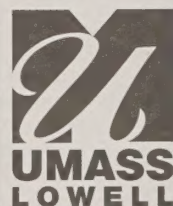
Registration is now available for the following UMass Lowell courses that will be held at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill this Spring:

- Criminal Justice Data Analysis
- Victimology
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Special Topics in Criminal Justice: Sex Offenses and Offenders
- French Revolution and Napoleon
- Financial Institutions and Markets
- Human Resources Management
- Strategic Management
- Sales and Customer Relations
- Operations Management
- Psychology and Women
- Health Psychology
- Research II: Statistics
- Seminar: Clinical Psychology - Sexual Offenders

\*Students may have the option to complete some required courses online.

QUESTIONS?  
Call 978-934-2474

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# News

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## Internships inspire NECC students

*Internship students reflect on their semester of co-op*

By SHAINA RICHARDS  
Web Editor

Students majoring in communications, business and accounting were able to take advantage of the internship opportunities through NECC this semester, gaining real-world experience in their major.

Darian Denis, Brett Davekos and Fausto Caba are just a few of the students who did internships this semester and were glad they did.

Denis, a Business Transfer major, recently completed an internship at Strategic Talent, a recruiting firm and an affiliate company of MFA Financial in Tewksbury.

"This internship is great for students who know what they want and just want to get their foot in the door, but it's also great for people who have absolutely no idea what they want because it can give them some sort of direction," she said.

Her main responsibilities were to help the team with research; she would prescreen resumes and

make initial calls to candidates to find out what they were seeking.

One of the biggest challenges for her was maintaining a balance between school, her internship, her other job and personal time for herself.

Although it's recommended that you take fewer classes while you're doing the internship, she didn't necessarily listen.

give me some direction for a future career path," she said. "Once I got in there and I started doing it, I realized that this is something I could do for years to come."

Brett Davekos is majoring in business management, but his interest is in the healthcare industry, so he did an internship at Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport.

His goal was to figure out what

ever, it wasn't all office work; my supervisor would have me sit in and see patients with her and the head physician of the clinic would invite me to sit in on some of his procedures," said Davekos.

In the Operating Room, his main duties were to stock supplies, clean rooms after operations and assist nurses.

During down time, doctors invited him to observe various operations.

His favorite part of the internship was the people that he got to work with, who were knowledgeable and supportive of his education.

"They taught me so many things that I wouldn't have been able to learn from a classroom; about how to interact with different kinds of patients, such as the elderly, drug addicts or ones going through chemotherapy," he said.

Every staff member at the hospital expressed to Davekos that they wished they could have done what he was able to do, since many people entering the healthcare industry have limited knowledge of what they are getting themselves into.

When a student's knowledge is limited to textbooks, it's diffi-

cult for a professor to accurately inform the student of what an actual job in the field would be like.

"This program not only gave me on-site experience, connections and relationships with influential people, but it also helped me pick out that nursing, out of numerous certificates and degrees I could pick from, was the best fit for my work ethic and personality," he said.

Fausto Caba, an accounting major in his last semester at NECC, did an internship at Bradford & Bigelow in Newburyport, a book manufacturing company. It was his first time working in an office environment.

His two main responsibilities were handling accounts payables and accounts receivables, or paying bills and billing customers.

Each day he would find a stack of papers for him, find invoices, and start working on them at the computer.

Caba's boss turned out to be an accounting professor, and his boss exposed him to a lot of different parts of accounting.

"There's no doubt I would recommend this internship to other students. This experience is life-changing," he said.

This experience is life-changing.

- Fausto Caba

"It's a lot of work! But it's all such a positive experience," Denis said.

One of her favorite parts of the internship class was being able to connect with other people in the same position as she was and expand her network with other students in various fields.

"I am also someone who has no idea what I'm doing after college, so the internship was a great opportunity for me to try out a field to see if I like it, and kind of

field in healthcare he wanted to pursue, such as nursing, radiology or medical assisting.

Since his internship was more education-oriented, he was placed in various places in the hospital, the two main locations being the Comprehensive Pain Clinic and the Operating Room.

"The duties I had in the pain clinic related to my degree the most because I did a lot of secretarial work such as filing, billing, scheduling and mail runs. How-



Photo by Amy Callahan

(L-R) Greg Morgan, Brett Davekos, Gabriel Cordero, Shaina Richards and Fausto Caba

## Student Senate News

The Student Senate meets every Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. in A112 on the Haverhill Campus and L244 on the Lawrence campus. Both rooms are equipped with a video feed allowing for live conferencing between the two groups of students.

The role of the senators is to serve as representatives of the student body to help promote the best possible relationship between students on both campuses, faculty and staff.

*Student Senate did not meet this past week in observance of Thanksgiving*

The Student Senate website has not yet been updated. The current Senate officers are as follows:

**President** - Chad Gorham \*

**Vice President, Haverhill** - Sam Racioppi

**Marketing Chair** - Jasmine Polanco

**Treasurer** - William Pound

**Programming Chair, Haverhill** - Nate Miller

**Senators** - Nate Miller, Jonathan Matos, Elvis Medina

**Vice President, Lawrence** - Jordan Castro

**Secretary** - Grant Bellino

**Parliamentarian** - Ray Florent

**Programming Chair, Lawrence** - Sara Ramirez

All members of the NECC community are encouraged to attend the meetings, or to contact the senators at the following locations:

Haverhill, D125  
978-556-3731

Lawrence, L133  
978-738-7417

"The mission of the NECC Student Senate is to promote the interests of the students, improve student participation in decision making and encourage the integration between students, faculty, staff and campus organizations while uniting both campuses in the creation of positive change."

\*Chad Gorham is also the Campus Life editor of the NECC Observer.

## Security Log



Information  
unavailable

### Where to find security:

**Haverhill Campus**  
100 Elliott St.,  
room TC 122  
978.556.3689

**Riverwalk Campus**  
360 Merrimack St.  
Bldg. 9, Entry K, Floor 3  
978.659.1200

**Lawrence Campus**  
45 Franklin St.  
main lobby  
978.738.7499

**Lawrence Ext. Campus**  
78 Amesbury St.  
main lobby  
978.738.7699

# News

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## Presidential Scholarship winners

### By NECC NEWSROOM

Twenty-seven local 2015 high school graduates were accepted to Northern Essex Community College's Presidential Scholars Program, an honors program devoted to high academic achievement. The 16-year-old program is designed to reward motivated high school students who will be attending NECC.

"Most plan to transfer to a four-year college or university after getting an associate's degree from Northern Essex," said Lane Glenn, president of NECC.

Admission to the program includes a \$1,000 scholarship, which is renewable provided the recipient maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher while attending NECC. Accepted students also receive a staff or faculty mentor who acts as an academic resource throughout the student's time on campus.

This year's Presidential Scholars include students from Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, Plaistow, N.H., and other surroundings town and cities. For more information on the NECC Presidential Scholars Program, please contact Lindsay Graham at [scholarships@necc.mass.edu](mailto:scholarships@necc.mass.edu) or at (978) 556-3629.

### Haverhill

**Haverhill High School**  
Gabrielle Ouellette, General Studies; Health Specialization  
Wyatt Pepe, Law Enforcement Certificate  
Xionnett Pla, Accounting  
**Haverhill Technical High School**  
Abigail Monson: Liberal Arts

### Lawrence

**Finance High School**  
Lindsey Costello, Early Childhood Education  
**Greater Lawrence Technical High School**  
Janelle Lopez, General Studies, Health Specialization  
Glendaliz Restos, General Studies, Health Specialization  
Jacqueline Rosales, Liberal Arts  
**Central Catholic High School**  
Chelsea Lynch, Liberal Arts  
**Lawrence International High School**  
Lys Ortiz, General Studies, Health Specialization  
Crisleidy Paula, Liberal Arts, Psychology Option

### Methuen

**Methuen High School**  
Rocherly Difo, Early Childhood Education  
Aiorca Herrera Abreu, Liberal Arts, Middle-High School

Teaching Option  
Rayhon Perez, Biology  
Deric Sutton, General Studies, Health Specialization

### Newbury

**Triton High School**  
Joseph Simon Liberal Arts  
**Newburyport**  
**Newburyport High School**  
Caitlyn Cole, General Studies, Art

### North Andover

**North Andover High School**  
Joseph Donofrio, Business Management

### Plaistow New Hampshire

**Timberlane Regional High School**  
Aurora Sidor, General Studies, Business Option

### Salem New Hampshire

**Salem High School**  
Erin Lehner, Liberal Arts, Theater Option

### West Newbury

**Pentucket High School**  
Emily Galligan, Biology

### Boxford

**Masconomet Regional High School**  
Megan Gibson, Engineering Science



Courtesy of NECC Newsroom

(L-R) Abigail Monson, Gabrielle Ouellette, and Xionnett Pla, all 2015 graduates of Haverhill High School, have been selected as Presidential Scholars at Northern Essex Community College. They are shown with NECC President Lane Glenn.

### Derry, New Hampshire

**Pinkerton Academy**  
Anthony Bowers, General Studies, Individualized Option

### Georgetown

**Georgetown High School**  
Abby Sippel, Liberal Arts

### Groveland

**Pentucket Regional High School**  
Madison Lesiczka, Early Childhood Education  
Natalie Scott, Liberal Arts

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Transfer Information Session  
Thursday: 1/7

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**POLICE/SHERIFF ACADEMY MEET & GREET**

Wednesday, December 2  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Hartleb Technology Center, TC103  
Haverhill Campus

Curious about the NECC Methuen Police Academy and the Essex County Sheriff's Department Academy, both of which are located on NECC's Haverhill Campus?

Come and learn more about the academies and ask any questions you may have. The program will start promptly at noon. Before then, you will have an opportunity to talk informally with academy administrators and students.

**PIZZA & DRINKS WILL BE SERVED**

For more information, contact George Moriarty, NECC's executive director of workforce development, [gmoriarty@necc.mass.edu](mailto:gmoriarty@necc.mass.edu) or 978 659-1224.

# Arts & Entertainment

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## Students' podcasts are on the air

Communication students' podcasts address hot topics

By REBECCA WESTERMAN

Arts & Entertainment

Communication students at NECC are making leaps and bounds in spreading information, bringing attention to contemporary issues in mass media and discussing controversial topics through HC Media's podcasts.

Thomas Matatall, Communication major, is a discussion leader in his podcast "Breaking the Norm."

"Our podcast is with my co-host Courtney Spera. We talk about uncomfortable topics for college students mainly, things like social justice issues. We tend to be more liberal, so when we talk about politics it tends to be more on the Democratic side," said Matatall.

Other divisive topics like Planned Parenthood, abortion and gun control laws are brought out on a conversational platter as well. In the first episode,



Photo by Tracy Mikami

Abdul Kamara, in studio during his podcast 'Here and There' with Tracy Mikami.

sode, the issue of double standards in society — including the controversial "Free the nipple" campaign that is frequently referenced in media — were examined. "It was our first one, so it was a little rocky. My favorite part is to be able to do it with my best friend, we have a good time and talk back and forth. There's a lot to come, you

can get a podcast app on your phone," said Matatall.

Another podcast that has made its debut is "Here and There" created by Tracy Mikami and Abdul Kamara. Mikami, a Communication major, is a leader in the discussions about very real racial issues in modern society, but also focuses on the positives of being an African American.

"The podcast is my friend and I, we basically try to break the racial social barriers in society. He's a first-generation African, and I came from Africa when I was younger, so I'm pretty much first-generation too," said Mikami.

To try and break the social barriers, the duo uniquely offers a positive outlook by discussing where they come from, and the similarities and differences among cultures.

"We talk about how we were raised, what we enjoyed seeing, what was different, and how we were able to transition from this lifestyle to the outside world," said Mikami.

One might expect someone who comes from a different culture to experience a lot of difficulty experiencing a college campus, however for Mikami it simply wasn't the case.

"A lot of people were really understanding. People kind of have something in them where they want to learn, and get educated, especially at NECC. It's very diverse and I really like it," said Mikami. According to her, one of the most enjoyable parts of being on a radio podcast, especially when addressing social in-



Photo by HC Media

Thomas Matatall and Courtney Spera pose for their cover photo of their podcast "Breaking the Norm."

justices or racial inequalities, is the feedback from listeners.

"People are interacting back and forth with us. When we tweet it out and have people comment back or subscribe, that tells you how you're doing," said Mikami.

The biggest struggle and point of contention in the current social climate is trying to get people to understand the difference between those who identify as African Americans, and those who identify as Black Americans.

"I consider myself African because I'm not even a citizen of the country yet, but I also still go back to my country. My mom speaks the language, and I understand. Then, with African Americans, some don't know where their roots are from. We have this whole different culture but Black Americans can also relate to it, we're kind of in that little pod, not everyone can understand that from the outside. There can be German Americans, or French Americans who happen to be black, and their grand-

parents or people before them. Once you're here and you've lived here for awhile and adjusted to it you'd be African American. It all depends on how the individual feels," said Mikami.

"Here and There" has one episode out right now, and plans to do one or two each month, each being about 30 minutes long.

"We will be having guests on the show, of people of different backgrounds, from different schools, different cities. So we will have people who are in Lowell which is not as diverse in certain areas, then we'll go to Fitchburg, and compare the different environments, and whether it's in college or high school we'll compare to similarities and differences growing up," said Mikami.

Other podcasts include a sports talk with Eddie Hoar and Matt Couture, called "Couture & Hoar Sports Talk" which is now available online. To reach the podcasts, go to <http://haverhillcommunitytv.org/category/podcast-series> to check out current podcasts.



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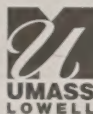
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Learning with Purpose

## Upcoming events:

Adam Ayan coming to NECC Dec. 9!

Grammy awarded winning Adam Ayan, who has worked with musical artists such as Madonna, Foo Fighters, Carrie Underwood, Faith Hill, Pearl Jam, Keith Urban, Kelly Clarkson, The Rolling Stones, and Rascal Flatts will be giving an oral presentation at NECC on album mastering on Wednesday Dec. 9th in TC 103 at 7 p.m. of the David Hartleb Technology Center. The event will be covering the skills of music mastering, and the steps involved in transforming a recording into an actual record.

"Alternate States of Being" by Brian Alves

On display in at artspace in Bentley Library is Alves' latest work, from 11/16-11/19. The artist reception will take place Tuesday, Dec. 1 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

# Campus Life

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## Relieve stress with fun and games

By CHAD GORHAM  
Campus Life Editor

With the end of the semester nearing and stress levels rising among students, the Sports and Fitness Center has some events to help you relieve stress.

In the coming week there will be three tournaments going on to help relieve some of the stress. The first event will take place on Friday, Dec. 4, from 12-1 p.m. This tournament is a foosball tournament. Foosball is a soccer game where you turn the knobs on a table to control your soccer players and try and score. On Monday, Dec. 7, there will be an 8-Ball pool tournament which will also take place from 12-1 p.m.

Students enjoy the tournaments for more than stress relief. They enjoy the camaraderie that the tournaments create. They enjoy being around other students and meeting new people.

Joe Bray, a movement science student said, "It's a lot of fun and I make new friends and it's also

great competition." On Wednesday, Dec. 9, is the one tournament that attracts the most students. The tournament is going to be mattball. Mattball is a lot like kickball, except instead of bases you run to giant mats. The mat can hold more than one runner on it as opposed to kick ball where only one runner can be on base at a time.

Maureen Saliba, the assistant athletic director said, "Matt Ball attracts the most students. It's a

week, I like to pick things that people like to do."

With finals around the corner and students feeling the pressure, students will find a way to relax without having to leave campus. They can either watch and cheer on their favorite students or participate in the actual events.

Saliba also said, "It's a great way to relieve stress during finals, what is better than running around letting off a little steam."

They also go on trips to shows as well as other fun things that students enjoy.

Ray Florent, an Early Education major said, "The events are a lot of fun, they also do field trips to shows in Boston as well as other things. I went on a trip to see Blue Man Group in the spring."

To sign up for the tournaments, students can go to the Sports and Fitness Center and sign up on the signup sheets to the left of the Knights Table or just join in if you see students playing in the quad.

Stay tuned for other events going on in the Sports and Fitness Center like the Seasonal Celebration.



Students play pool and ping pong while on break in between classes.

Photo by Chad Gorham

I like to pick things that people like to do  
- Maureen Saliba

lot of fun." When organizing events, Saliba likes to make sure she keeps the excitement level in mind for the students. She wants to attract as many students as she can with many different activities. They even have events such as flag football, ultimate frisbee and soccer that happen out on the quad. Weather permitting, of course.

Saliba said, "We like to do things for the students 2-3 times

## Starfish named

After a contest, Johnny Blue Fins is the winner

By RACHEL SARCIONE  
Correspondent

NECC's Student Success Center is proud to introduce Johnny Blue Fins. NECC students were asked to vote for one of the six finalists in the Name the Starfish Contest. The cheery

blue starfish is the mascot for NECC's Early Success Starfish Program, which is designed to offer ongoing academic support and encouragement to students. Congratulations to NECC student Katherine Stone, History major, for submitting the winning name. Stone was attending an ice cream social on the Haverhill campus when she submitted her entry. "Everyone was sug-

gesting the name Patrick, but I thought it should be more interesting," said Stone. "So I just made it up on the spot. And free ice cream was just a bonus." Stone received an NECC backpack stuffed with prizes, including a \$25 gift card to the NECC bookstore.

Other names that were suggested were Jackson, Jefferson, Jazzy, and many others.



Katherine Stone receives her picture with the starfish that shall forever be known as Johnny Blue Fins.

Photo Courtesy of NECC



## PARRANDA!

Puerto Ricans are known for their unforgettable "parrandas or trullas navideñas". Parrandas is the Puerto Rican version of Christmas caroling and tend to be more secular than religious. However, many of the traditional aguinaldos (Puerto Rican Christmas songs) retain the holiday spirit.

Join us on December 2, 2015 for a traditional Puerto Rican parranda to spread cheers throughout the Lawrence Campus. The group will leave the Dimitry Building at 11:00AM. Please see the map on the back to find the stops for the PARRANDA! The group will return to the Dimitri building to join the Student Engagement Seasonal Celebration.



APPROVED  
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STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



Individuals requesting sign language interpreting, access requests (including food related allergies), questions, or for further event information, please contact Lulu Garcia at agarcia@necc.mass.edu

# Features

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## Psychology major wants to help those with PTSD

(continued from page 1)

"A group of Psi Beta members, which included two other students and myself spoke as a student panel about our early obstacles, successes and of course our wisdom to members of faculty and staff at NECC.

"Our presentation was called 'Mystified.' The core message was despite the odds against us whether it was gender identity, sexual orientation, abuse and all of the consequences of such odds, we are achieving our goals in college.

"I want to say by being on 'Mystified,' I grew stronger as an individual. I voiced about abuses I've faced, and that was both empowering and scary as it was the first time I publically spoke of things of that nature to a room full of professors and staff," says McGilvray.

"The panel received a questions along the lines of, 'How can we help other students develop a healthy mindset?' Many of our answers were simply, 'Be aware of those who may be struggling,

Lenny Cavallaro, a member of the English department since 1998, says, "I didn't really get much of an impression until her first paper. It was clear that she would prove an excellent student, and I was impressed by how well she addressed the editorial corrections I provided (for the draft) in her revision. She always responded well to criticism and was a pleasure to have in the classroom."

Gagne thinks McGilvray is a "dedicated student, focused on learning and always striving to improve. She's a quiet person but when you get to know her you realize that she has a lot to say about anything and everything. She is curious and always willing to help out others, and is passionate about animal therapy."

"My passion for animal therapy stems from home. I have an ESA (Emotional Support Animal) named Ruby. She perks my mood up when I'm feeling blue with playful meows that demand my attention, but more than often laying over my assignments/key-board. Animals can help everyone

nate like the dickens, and that is not helpful," says McGilvray.

"I am afraid I know her only as a student -- and a very good one, at that," says Cavallaro.

McGilvray's philosophy in life includes quotes like: "I love those who can smile in trouble, who can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection and 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but they whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approved their conduct, will pursue their principles unto death," from Leonardo da Vinci."

Another is by Robert Fulghum. "I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge. That myth is more potent than history. That dreams are more powerful than facts. That hope always triumphs over experience. That laughter is the only cure for grief. And I believe that love is stronger than death."

Brianna Beam, a 25-year-old Criminal Justice graduate, says, "We met in middle school and we were not friends at first because of a disagreement we had, and then met again in high school and quickly became best friends."

"Brianna and I wiped the slate clean and became best friends," says McGilvray. "It's harder to see her because she is currently at UML. However, we've bonded deeply and both of us understand that life happens, and so when we do see another it's like no time has passed."

"I was admittedly nervous around her. I'm an extremely introverted person, especially with people I don't know especially well," says Christina Sirignano, a 24-year-old Liberal Arts Philosophy Option major.

"In the end, we bonded over books and our mutual love of Disney movies, especially 'Beauty and the Beast.'"

McGilvray says that she and Sirignano had met briefly in high school, "Our friendship really took off, we've forged our friendship over music, books, movies, how to properly pronounce words like hibiscus. We, like Brianna and I, do not see each other often but, we try to make a day in a month that we get together. Our next adventure will be the Aquarium."

At first glance, McGilvray doesn't seem to be one that lives with any type of disorder, but she digs through the trenches of living with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), MDD (Major Depressive Disorder) and GAD (Generalized Anxiety Disorder).

"Most of my stresses and anxieties are often minor situations. I despise being late for work or a major appointment. I would rather get hit with a baseball bat than have small talk with someone I do not know," McGilvray says.



Photo courtesy of Shianne McGilvray

Pictured here is Shianne McGilvray, an honors graduate and member of PACE, Phi Theta Kappa and Psi

When McGilvray first started working at the college bookstore, her biggest conflict was coping with others. She says, "There are coping strategies to make life easier. There are times where I simply can't get out of bed, but I have to — I make goals for myself, and try to see the silver in the clouds."

She had used the opportunity of her job to get to talking to people she didn't know, essentially facing her anxieties.

"Shianne is one of the strongest people I know. Her life has been difficult, and she's had to take on more responsibility because of it," Sirignano says. "When I first met her, Shianne was working two jobs and attending college full-time. And yet somehow she still managed to graduate with honors."

"She works hard and perseveres even when she is confronted with challenges, she doesn't always see how much of an amazing person she is, and she lets things get to her when they shouldn't," says Beam.

"Shianne cares deeply about the people who are closest to her. She's very protective of her loved ones and would do anything she could for them. However, with all that passion and love comes a short fuse. Like me, Shianne can get frustrated with others easily,

most college students have to deal with, and she has made it through being better than she was when she started," Beam says.

Sirignano says, "I think the reason why we're still friends is because Shianne is so down to earth and easygoing. Even if we haven't seen each other for well over a month, there's never any awkwardness; it's like that month-long hiatus never happened. She's outspoken and funny, I'm quiet and sarcastic. She is an inspiration, an exceptional role model, and a great friend."

"I don't have a favorite role model in celebrity life; I can't see what is beyond what is at their face value unless I specifically know the person, and that's okay," says McGilvray.

"I have other role models in my personal life, which include my aunts and grandmother, but also the people who are not related to me, such as my ninth grade history teacher, Amy, who I will spend time with her and her family on Christmas for the 3rd time. These role models, specifically Amy, have taught me to love my life, despite the obstacles I've been facing."

"She's the yin to my yang. Shianne is just one of those friends that I know I'll always have," Sirignano says.

McGilvray plans to take sign language courses at UMass Lowell.

"I want to learn American Sign Language to help individuals be able to communicate with me. My life plan is to help

someone to find his/her voice, strength, meaning of life and help ease his/her burdens as a friend, teacher, therapist, etc. I plan on a personal level to keep progressing from what I once was, to what I am now, to what I will be," she says.

but she never dwells on it. Once that spark ignites, it's gone fairly quickly," says Sirignano.

"I love her dearly, she is part of my family. She stands out because she is herself, has an awesome personality and accepts me for who I am. The way we act when we are together, we could be sisters."

"She has overcome more than



Photo courtesy of Shianne McGilvray

McGilvray's therapy cat, Ruby, helping out with homework.

gling, and be available to talk to mentor those who are struggling."(or) "You can try to help students, but it won't change unless the students want to change their mindset,"(and) "students need to become more self-aware, and if they have the tools to change, they will because it is self-motivated."

When she participated in the professional day they had a panel of Psi Beta students, three honor students and they discussed how they overcame the odds in their lives to be successful now.

"Shianne discussed her childhood and she said that she had no choice but to do well because that brings meaning to her life. She wrote a PowerPoint with words representing what a positive mind-set is and with pictures of her as a child and now," said Gagne.

(who can be treated with animal therapy, which excludes animal abusers) to veterans, blind persons, people who have seizures, children, adults, also criminals."

McGilvray still struggles like fellow college students. "Honestly, at times I can't break things down and handle them in an academic setting — but I try and keep trying. I ask for help from professors if I can't break things down and ask for their guidance on how I should handle it."

"Then when I understand it, I personalize it to my specific tastes (for example, I am doing a survey and I've had to ask how I should represent specific data.) I believe the hardest thing for me in classes (and life) is to ask for help, because I have had to depend on myself, but I also need to understand that I can ask for assistance. However, I procrastinate

“ There are times where I simply can't get out of bed, but I have to. I make goals to see the silver in the clouds. - Shianne McGilvray ”

# More

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## Vegetarians take root at NECC

*Students opt for many different kinds of meat-free diets*

BY RACHAEL SARCIONE  
Staff Writer

Whether they're doing it for ethical reasons, following trends or addressing food safety concerns such as E.coli and Salmonella, the number of vegetarian students is on the rise at NECC.

"I've definitely noticed a lot more vegetarian students this semester," said Melissa Merrill of NECC's Jitters Café.

The college years are often a time when young adults are "finding themselves," and part of the process is making dietary choices that are right for the individual. Oftentimes, people are influenced by their peers or trendsetting celebrities, but vegetarian diets are

a little more complicated than they appear.

Getting enough protein is a common struggle for both new and veteran vegetarians.

"Soybeans and other complete proteins are a good source," said NECC professor Kim Waligora, who teaches a course in Human Health and Nutrition.

Students who are curious about vegetarian diets or are already practicing vegetarianism will find that there are several classifications and guidelines for each one:

- Flexitarian or semi-vegetarians eat mostly vegetarian foods, including eggs and dairy, but occasionally eat meat.

- Pescetarians abstain from eating meat, with the exception of seafood.

- Lacto-vegetarians eat most-

ly vegetarian foods but include milk, cheese, yogurt and other dairy products.

- Ovo-vegetarians eat mostly vegetarian foods with the exception of eggs.

- Lacto-ovo-vegetarians abstain from eating meat but do consume dairy products and eggs.

- Dietary vegans do not consume any meat or animal byproduct such as dairy, eggs or gelatin.

- Ethical vegans follow the same guidelines as dietary vegans but will not wear the fur or hide of an animal.

NECC alum and math tutor Kelsey Terry is a lacto-ovo-vegetarian and gets most of her protein from dairy products, cashews and peanut butter. Although she has not gained the support of her family, Terry is comfortable with her dietary choice. "My family makes me feel like I should be ashamed for being 'purposely difficult' but I would never meat-shame them. I don't mind if people eat meat in front of me, as long as they don't try to force it on me."

The Urban Dictionary defines "meat shaming" as "criticizing another person for their food choices" and gives the example "vegan is good, meat eater is

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You don't have to meat-shame anyone at the butcher shop to be considered a good vegetarian.

- Robert Donna

”

bad.”

"You don't have to meat shame anyone or put up PETA fliers at the butcher shop to be considered a good vegetarian," said Robert Donna, a meat packer for BJ's Wholesale Club. "I'll eat what I like and you can eat what you like and we don't have to argue about it, okay!"

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) is founded under the beliefs that "animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on or be entertained by."

Whether you are an ethical vegan or anyone who is interested in animal rights activism, www.peta.com has plenty of information.

Jitters Café on NECC's Haverhill campus offers many vegetarian meals, which makes things a little easier for students while they're on campus.

"We try to keep well stocked with our veggie soup, wraps and

pizza," said Merrill

Eating out can be difficult, especially for new vegetarians as it can take a while to figure out which restaurants can accommodate their diets.

"I feel restricted when I go to restaurants, there aren't enough vegetarian options for me," said Terry.

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“

I don't mind if people eat meat in front of me, as long as they don't try to force it on me.

- Kelsey Terry

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## The trials and tribulations of transferring

*Transferring is a lot of work, but students say it's worth it*

BY SHAINA RICHARDS  
Web Editor

Transferring from a community college to a four-year school can seem daunting. Many students aren't sure where to start when looking for colleges, or what they ought to look for in a college. Taking advantage of the resources available at NECC, such as academic advisors or speaking directly to the department head for your major, can help to make the college search less overwhelming.

Rachel Torres, a Communication major at NECC, hasn't started looking at colleges yet. She's not sure where to start.

"I feel like it's so much work, and I'm not entirely sure how to go about it," she said. Affordability and easily transferrable credits were the two most important things to her when considering her options.

Jess Palmer, a criminal justice major who graduated from NECC this year, knew she was going to transfer somewhere when she started. First, she transferred to SNHU for their online communications program since she was working full time. After realizing she would prefer an in-class setting, she applied to

UMass Lowell's criminal justice program that is held at NECC's campus in Haverhill. When she registered for classes, the UMass Lowell advising live chat was her "saving grace."

"The transfer process was ridiculously easy. I was preparing for a big to-do, if you will, and it literally was so simple," she said. Her one regret was rushing into picking SNHU instead of doing more research before making her decision.

NECC alumni Faith Gregory originally planned to transfer to UMass Amherst when she started out at NECC, but she ended up changing her mind after looking into Hampshire College. The activist atmosphere of the college

appealed to her.

"The most important thing for me when looking into colleges, originally, was affordability. But when I found Hampshire College, I knew that was a better fit for what kind of education I wanted to receive, and how much control I would have over what I studied," she said.

Gregory's advice to current community college students looking to transfer is: "Pick what is best for you ... look specifically into reviews and details about your program of study, and take deep breaths. Transferring is scary, but you can do it," she said.

Esther Aida, another NECC alumni, started to think about transferring in her second year at

NECC. She applied to Emerson, Suffolk and UMass Amherst. Although Emerson was her dream school, she went with her second choice, Suffolk, because they gave her more financial aid.

"The transfer process was insanely easy! Honestly it was the easiest thing ever, it was really straightforward and the advisors were really helpful," she said.

Her only advice is to make sure the courses you take will transfer over, and if you can take extra courses that will transfer over, you should do so.

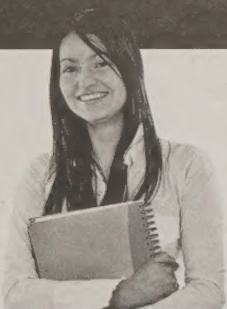
"I can't emphasize how much cheaper classes are there than they are in a four-year institution. Utilize NECC as much as you possibly can," she said.

# FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED!

## Transfer Information Session Dates

Sunday, December 6 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 24 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



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# Sports

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## Basketball coach suspension

*Continued from page 1*

The investigation by the attorney general's office, partnered with the FBI, IRS and state police, resulted in a 122-count indictment.

"These defendants amassed a network of bettors in an enterprise that utilized an offshore betting website for their bookkeeping in an attempt to circumvent state gambling laws. We thank the Massachusetts State Police and all of the other federal, state and local agencies that assisted us in dismantling this operation," Healey said.

According to a press release from the attorney general's office, the suspected leader of the criminal network was John Woodman, age 43, of Braintree. Police allege that Woodman maintained a net-

work of over 30 agents who took illegal bets from more than 700 bettors in Massachusetts.

The owner and operator of PerHead.com, Travis Prescott, was indicted as well.

Sue MacAvoy, athletic director of NECC, said that the basketball team will be "moving forward" in spite of these events.

"The main focus right now is the team," she said.

Assistant Coach Joe Tardif has taken over in Stratton's absence, going 4-2 over the 6 games he has coached since Stratton's suspension.

Stratton and the other defendants were scheduled to be arraigned in Suffolk Superior Court on Nov. 30.



Coach Stratton talks to his players during a timeout earlier this season.

Photo by Kyle Benson

## The Knights are road warriors



*Knights are 4-0 on road this season*

BY KYLE BENSON  
Sports Editor

All of the NECC Knights basketball team's losses have been at home, while they have gone undefeated during away games with a record of 4-0.

The Knight's season started off on the road for 2 games, with an opener at NHTI and a game two days later at Great Bay.

At NHTI, the Knights posted a 91-68 score to win their first game of the season. Matthew Jameson led the scoring with 18 points. Andres Hernandez scored 17 points and Dominic Dar scored 13. NECC hit 50 percent of their 3-point attempts and racked up 51 rebounds, 14 of them came from Jonathan Paulino.

Two days later, the Knights

arrived in Great Bay and brought their best game, winning 105-55. It was a very impressive early season win. They scored 59 points in the 1st half alone. Dar scored 14 and Paulino kept the rebound train chugging with 15 on the game.

The early road wins put NECC in a good position to keep their record moving up and have made a good foundation for later in the season.

Knights player Julio Vicente spoke about the team doing well on the road.

"I think we're good on the road ... I feel like my team is more focused when we are on our way over to the games. I just put some headphones on and I zone out."

The Knights' next road game was on Nov. 19 at Bristol. Coach Darren Stratton was suspended from NECC two games be-

forehand, so assistant coach Joe Tardif took the reins and led the Knights to their third road win of the season at Bristol. NECC won 101-93.

The Bristol game was a closer score than the other road games. The Knights scored 53 of their points in the first half. Paulino had 14 rebounds on the game. Jameson and Dar scored 22 and 23 points respectively. The scoring was more well rounded this game, with everyone getting a piece of the 101 points.

NECC's most recent road game was at Quinsigamond, where they won 81-70 in their closest road win of the season so far. Jameson continued his domination and scored 24 points, with the next closest point-getter being Bryan Morales, who scored 16 points.

The Knights have four road games coming in December.



NECC Knights waiting on the sideline.

Photo by Sue MacAvoy

Bryan Morales going up for a shot.

Photo by Sue MacAvoy

# Sports

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## NECC Knights on the right track to a successful 2015-2016 season

*Knights have a winning record and look to keep it up*

By KYLE BENSON  
Sports Editor

On Tuesday Nov. 17, the Knights basketball squad took on Massasoit Community College, in their first game of the season not coached by Darren Stratton. Stratton was placed on administrative leave after gambling charges, so Assistant Coach Joe Tardif took the head.

Massasoit started the scoring. It took 2-and-a-half minutes and a Matthew Jameson layup for the Knights to get on the board. After they got their opening points, they seemed to stay on track. The Knights came up big soon after with a crisp pass-around-the-court play where the ball ended up in Dominic Dar's hands; he finished it off with a basket. At the half, the Knights were up 42-39.

The court seemed a little more quiet without Stratton coaching from the side. This did not deter the Knights' efforts, however, as Tardif kept NECC on track.

The rest of the game was really close, reaching 71-71 with five minutes left in the game. The Knights ended up losing 82-78.

Thankfully, NECC had another opportunity to win at home that Saturday when they faced UConn at Avery Point, and that's just what they did. The Knights had points coming from all angles that afternoon: Jameson scored 19 points himself, Bryan Morales nabbed 13 and Julio Vicente picked up 12.

The Knights play five games in December, only one home game.

December schedule: Tuesday Dec. 1 @ Roxbury, Thursday Dec. 3 @ Bunker Hill, Saturday Dec. 5 @ Springfield Tech, Thursday Dec. 10 vs. Southern Maine Community College, Saturday Dec. 12 @ Gateway (CT).



Knights players look on during a game.

Photo by Kyle Benson

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Matt Lynch goes up for the basket.

Photo by Sue MacAvoy

# Just for Fun

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## NECC Word Search

S G L M S G N B S Q U J S J K T U G S K  
B X E Y D N D P U O N C P M S Q U K R M  
U Z G Z H Y O S P I H S N R E T N I O S  
L W N Y C R T S D O O Y Q Y G Z E B S E  
C U I R T O E I L G G P I K C I R Q S L  
U O N S H M L A N O E C N E R W A L E H  
B Z R C A O R L L U Q J R Z A U F F F E  
K E A G U S D O E C T V U N S I P K O F  
K B E O H I N K T G O R E B M V E S R N  
K T L I M H P M C B E M O V Q I E J P I  
Z J P I C U K Y Q U A D M P Z Z D J V K  
U T T E F V F R E A V O N U P M U J A F  
J R T S C X E S K L T K A S N O C B T T  
Y S A R Z V Z J T J T R D D I I A U R G  
A G J E R Z X X T N T N I B E L T R A H  
H A V E R H I L L S E D E U W W I Y V F  
R Q S R M Z S O P I U D X B M Q O A E C  
E B R A T O I A R V L A U G H I N G L N  
O A X C P E C F G P J I T T E R S M W I  
J L I E M E P G N I V I L T S M S G S A

Words can run in any direction, including diagonal, backwards and upside down

- ARTSPACE  
ATRIUM  
BENTLEY  
CAREERS  
CLUBS  
COLLEGE  
COMMUNITY  
DIMITRY  
EDUCATION  
ELHEFNI
- FRIENDS  
GAMES  
HARTLEB  
HAVERHILL  
INTERNSHIPS  
JITTERS  
LAUGHING  
LAWRENCE  
LEARNING  
LIVING
- OBSERVER  
OPPORTUNITY  
PROFESSORS  
QUAD  
SCHOLARSHIP  
SPORTS  
SPURK  
STUDENTS  
TECHNOLOGY  
TRAVEL

## S U D O K U

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| 7 | 2 |   | 3 |   |   |   | 5 |   |
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| 2 |   | 7 |   |   | 9 | 8 | 6 |   |
|   | 4 |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |
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|   | 3 |   |   |   | 8 | 4 | 9 | 6 |

## On This Day in History

- Here are some historical events that have taken place on Dec. 2 over the years, courtesy of Wikipedia:
- 1961 – In a nationally broadcast speech, Cuban leader Fidel Castro declares that he is a Marxist-Leninist and that Cuba is going to adopt Communism.
  - 1962 – Vietnam War: After a trip to Vietnam at the request of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield becomes the first American official to comment adversely on the war's progress.
  - 1976 – Fidel Castro becomes President of Cuba, replacing Osvaldo Dorticós Torrado.
  - 1980 – Salvadoran Civil War: Four U.S. nuns and churchwomen, Ita Ford, Maura Clarke, Jean Donovan, and Dorothy Kazel, are murdered by a military death squad.
  - 1982 – At the University of Utah, Barney Clark becomes the first person to receive a permanent artificial heart.
  - 1988 – Benazir Bhutto is sworn in as Prime Minister of Pakistan, becoming the first woman to head the government of an Islam-dominated state.
  - 1991 – Canada and Poland become the first nations on earth to recognize the independence of Ukraine from the Soviet Union.
  - 1993 – Space Shuttle program: STS-61: NASA launches the Space Shuttle Endeavour on a mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.
  - 2001 – Enron files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

## ‘Spotlight’ celebrates journalistic integrity

Story of Boston Globe reporters is one of the best films of the year

By JOWI MELI  
Copy Editor

★★★★  
Last week, in the wake of people's hateful reactions to a number of tragedies and events, I found myself questioning the purpose of journalism as a profession. Taking a rare opportunity to step up on the Social Media Soapbox, I wrote an impassioned tirade on Facebook: "Sometimes I wonder what the point of being a journalist is," I said. "Why bother relating the facts when so many readers are a) too ignorant to understand them in the right context and/or b) too caught up in their own emotions to even bother with empiricism?"  
This is a question I'm sure many people in the field struggle with from time to time. After all, when wagging fingers come to rest on the public's chosen scapegoat for any given issue, it is "the media" in general that gets lazily blamed for the world's problems. Indeed, it often feels like people would rather not know the truth at all, lest it come into conflict with

the version they've imagined for themselves.  
"Spotlight" is an important film, because it reinforces a key point about journalism's ability to combat ignorance: it's not about telling the public what they want to hear, it's about telling them what they need to hear. In a city with such a large Roman Catholic population, The Boston Globe took enormous risks to tell the truth about corruption within the church's ranks — let alone corruption dealing with child rape and molestation. But in doing so, they uncovered a global problem that challenged people's beliefs and forced people to look at things from a different perspective. The story may not have the most satisfying resolution, but it reminded me why journalism is such a crucial service — especially at a time when emotions seem to trump facts.  
The movie takes us back to 2001. The Spotlight team consists of Michael Rezendes (Mark Ruffalo), Walter "Robby" Robinson (Michael Keaton), Sacha Pfeiffer (Rachel McAdams), Ben Bradlee Jr. (John Slattery) and Matt Carroll (Brian d'Arcy James). They're a bit on edge because a new editor has been



Photo courtesy of Open Road Films  
Left to right: Sacha Pfeiffer (Rachel McAdams), Walter "Robby" Robinson and Michael Rezendes (Mark Ruffalo).

hired, an outsider from the Miami Herald named Marty Baron (Liev Schreiber). Baron wants to redirect the Spotlight team's efforts, which includes requesting that they pursue information on Catholic priest John Geoghan, who has been accused of molesting several young boys.  
As the team scatters to the corners of the city to begin putting the pieces of the puzzle together, it never dawns on us that we're watching "performances," as these actors completely embody the journalists they're playing. It bodes well that none of them are glammed up in stereotypically Hollywood ways; their frumpy, grizzled appearances lend a lot of believability to the recreation of the events here — and unlike other movies set in Boston this year ("Black Mass"), director Thomas

McCarthy's film accomplishes the striking feat of actually feeling local.  
As the plot thickens, with more and more revelations being uncovered, the memorable moments pile up: unforgettable, heartbreaking scenes of the victims recounting their abuse at the hands of the priests they so admired; any scene with Stanley Tucci as Mitchell Garabedian, a frazzled but deeply concerned lawyer knee-deep in cases involving the Church; and a late montage set to an eerie youth-choir version of "Silent Night," which sent chills up my spine. To merely describe the events is to do the filmmakers an extreme disservice; like the outrageous events that fueled Rezendes' original immense, multi-page expose, "Spotlight" has to be seen to be believed.  
This is one of the best films of the year. It's not just a heartening reminder of what journalism can do, it's a captivating story in its own right: a portrait of hard-working people absolutely committed to doing the right thing — going up against a monumental institution with a lot to hide, and plenty of places to hide it.